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Proposal to start an Irrigation Panchayat in the Kistna Western Division.

* 201 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have under contemplation the starting of an Irrigation Panchayat as an experiment in any place in the Kistna Western Division; if not, why not?

A.—No. The Collector has the power to transfer channels to the control and management of irrigation panchayats in consultation with the Executive Engineer.

Repairs to the Karikulavakam Thangal bund.

* 202 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Karikulavakam Thangal bund (I.T. 477) gave way and overflowed on the neighbouring cheri on many occasions;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation inspected the spot on 17th September 1927, and passed orders in 1928, to raise the thangal bund and combine it with the adjacent tank (I.T. 465) into one source, and whether in view of that proposal an estimate for Rs. 4,000 was submitted in 1929–30 to combine the tank with the thangal;

(*c*) if so, why no further action was taken in the matter;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Government have spent about Rs. 4,250 in the years 1931 and 1932 in strengthening the Karikulavakam tank bund (I.T. 465) to save the Hindu residential quarters of Vishnuvakam and Karikulavakam villages adjoining it from inundation;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that no repairs have been carried out by the Public Works Department to the said thangal (I.T. 477) for the last 20 years;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that during floods the supplying sluice from the tank (I.T. 465) to the thangal (I.T. 477) discharges heavy floods endangering the paracheri every year; and

(*g*) whether the Government have any proposal before them to protect the cheri from inundations?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information. It is reported that the cheri is not in danger of inundation.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The proposal was dropped for three reasons, viz., that it involved the raising of the Full Tank Level of the Thangal by $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet rendering the Pudur village and foreshore lands liable to submersion, that the surplus of the tank which is now flowing into the Velliyur tank will

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under the proposal be diverted into the Kattangal and interfere with existing rights and that the anticipated return was too low to justify the expenditure.

(*d*) The Karikulavakam tank bund was extended on the right on two different occasions and on the left once. The first work was completed in April 1930 with an expenditure of Rs. 2,475. The object of this work was to prevent the wastage of the tank water over the right flank which it was feared might be caused by the foreshore ryots to save their lands from submersion. Subsequently the bund was further extended in 1932–33 at a cost of Rs. 566. The work was completed in March 1933. This extension was with a view to prevent the inundation of the Adi-Dravida quarters of Vishnuvakkam village on occasions when the tank was full. An extension of the left flank end of the tank bund was also carried out in 1932 at a cost of Rs. 222. This was done to prevent the wastage of the tank water over the left flank end.

(*e*) The thangal was repaired and improved in 1918.

(*f*) No. The sluice itself has only a limited capacity and has needle shutters fitted with regulating arrangements.

(*g*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the second sentence in answer to clause (*a*). It is proposed to raise and strengthen the bund wherever necessary and an estimate for the work has been sanctioned recently.

Repairs and improvements to the Minor Irrigation Works in the districts of South Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore.

* 203 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money spent on minor irrigation works in each of the districts of South Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore during the last five years;

(*b*) the number and nature of the works carried out and the improvements effected to irrigation sources thereby;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that many of the irrigation tanks in the district of South Arcot, particularly in the taluks of Tirukkoyilur, Tindivanam and Gingee are silted up and have not been attended to for the last five years; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to institute any inquiry into the condition of irrigation tanks in the district of South Arcot with a view to improve the irrigation facilities?